

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 13 with the following amended paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that support for the amendment can be found in claims 13 and 26 which use the trade name "SPECTRASHIELD", as well as in the materials supplied in the Appendix, which show the factual equivalency of this trade name and the description of the product that goes by this name.

A preferred embodiment of the instant invention relates to the specific application of the instant RBBC materials as armor for stopping ballistic projectiles. To defeat the incoming projectile, such ceramic armors usually feature at least two layers made up of very dissimilar materials. Namely, at a minimum, there is a ceramic layer and a backing layer, which typically are bonded to one another. As the name suggests, relative to the direction of travel of the projectile, the backing layer is placed behind the ceramic layer. Sometimes, one or more layers of a protective material are also placed in front of the ceramic layer, but these are usually for the purpose of protecting the ceramic from fractures due to routine handling (or mishandling). The purpose of the ceramic layer is to "process" the projectile, such as by flattening or shattering it. The role of the backing layer is to then "catch" the processed projectile as well as any backward propelled fragments of the ceramic layer. The backing layer may be made of metals such as aluminum, steel or titanium, which for vehicular armor, may be the structure of the vehicle itself. Where lightweight armor is needed, the backing layer typically is a fiber-reinforced polymeric (FRP) material. The fibers employed in these backing layers include polyethylene, aramid and glass fibers. Several such FRP backing materials are commercially available. One such FRP backing material goes by the tradename "SpectraShield", registered to AlliedSignal Inc. (now owned by Honeywell International Inc., and referring to a roll product consisting of two plies of unidirectional extended-chain polyethylene fiber tapes cross-plyed at right angles, resulting in a nonwoven, thermoplastic composite).